
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PORTS AUTHORITY FOR AIRPORTS AND
HARBORS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an island state that depends heavily
2 upon its harbors and airports for the movement of cargo and
3 persons between islands and to and from the rest of the world;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, with tourism as one of the prime industries of the
7 State, Hawaii's economic sustainability depends on the
8 effectiveness and efficiency of its airport system; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation is responsible
11 for the planning, design, construction, operation, and
12 maintenance of state facilities in all modes of transportation,
13 including air, water, and land; and

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15 WHEREAS, the economic well-being of the State depends, in
16 part, on the efficient use of its airports and harbors, which
17 will enhance and complement efforts to revitalize Hawaii's
18 economy, and coordinated planning and development of air and sea
19 transportation; and

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21 WHEREAS, the establishment of a Hawaii Ports Authority
22 having jurisdiction over airports and harbors in this State will
23 augment the State's efforts in achieving important statewide
24 objectives, including increased security for the State; improved
25 administrative efficiency of Hawaii's airports and harbors
26 systems; and improved coordination of environmental issues
27 affecting the State's airports and harbors, particularly
28 relating to alien invasive species; and

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30 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, Airports
31 Division, currently provides, operates, and maintains eleven



1 commercial-service airports and four general-aviation airports,
2 with four of the five major airports serving domestic and
3 international carriers; and
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5 WHEREAS, airport improvements are funded from the passenger
6 facility charge special fund, established under section 261-5.5,
7 Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and harbor improvements are
8 funded from the harbor special fund, established under section
9 266-19, HRS; and
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11 WHEREAS, all airport revenues from landing fees, terminal
12 rentals, or airport concessions go into the airport revenue fund
13 from which all airport construction projects and operations and
14 maintenance are funded; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, Harbors
17 Division, currently provides, operates, and maintains ten
18 commercial harbors located at Honolulu and Kalaeloa Barbers
19 Point on Oahu; Hilo and Kawaihae on Hawaii Island; Kahului,
20 Hana, Kaunakakai, and Kaunapau in Maui County; and Nawiliwili
21 and Port Allen on Kauai; and
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23 WHEREAS, all harbor revenues from rates, fees, fines, and
24 administrative penalties go into the harbors special fund, which
25 is used for the costs of operation, maintenance, and repair of
26 the statewide system of harbors, and other related things such
27 as construction, additions, expansions, and improvements; and
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29 WHEREAS, according to a 2010 fact sheet of the Ohio State
30 University, "Port authorities can be useful economic development
31 tools for local governments . . . They are usually self-
32 sustaining and often operate railroads, airports, or shipping
33 terminals. Local governments frequently establish port
34 authorities to promote or support economic development"; and
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36 WHEREAS, powers of a port authority typically include the
37 ability to:
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39 (1) Acquire real and personal property;
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41 (2) Own, lease, sell, and construct improvements to real
42 property;



- (3) Issue revenue bonds for port authority facilities;
- (4) Issue general obligation bonds for port authority facilities and other permanent improvements;
- (5) Receive federal and state grants and loans and other public funds; and
- (6) Operate transportation, recreation, governmental, or cultural facilities, and set rates and charges for use of port authority facilities; and

WHEREAS, the current time required for approval and implementation of projects at airports and harbors is excessive due to stringent and lengthy appropriation, allotment, and procurement processes; and

WHEREAS, if granted an exemption by the Legislature, a port authority could seek an exemption from procurement laws under section 103D-102(c), HRS, which would streamline and expedite its operations immensely; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Transportation is urged to develop a plan for the establishment of a port authority that has jurisdiction over the management, construction, operations, and finances of the State's airports and harbors; and

Be IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016 on a plan to establish a port authority, including any proposed legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Department of Transportation.

